

After Sloper's exclusive patent expired, in 1872, he at first strived to cope with a rising tide of competition in the United Kingdom. However the market was becoming saturated. Armed with a "letter of acceptance" from HM Government Sloper extended his activities to Europe. He may have achieved some success because the first permits for the perforation of postage stamps in Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany were issued in 1876 followed by France and Austro-Hungary the next year. The interest in perfins had been raised, but did he sell any machines? Inspection of the early perfins of Denmark suggests he did. Danish perfins D36 and C21 are both very early usage and both look very like Sloper designs (see illustrations). Another interesting example is the Danish C10 which appears to be identical with the GB C1220. The latter is unidentified but known postmarked No 383 (English Series) which is the number of Hull. Perhaps it belonged to an importer or shipper who had an office in Denmark and perforated Danish stamps in the United Kingdom, or maybe Sloper took this machine to Denmark and used it as a demonstration.

Anyone who knows of Sloper like designs on the early stamps of any country is invited to report it to the Society's Catalogue editor.

